

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 10, 1997

6:00 P.M. BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

THE HONORABLE JOHN T. JENKINS, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Lynch, Kelly, Gray, Albert, Samson, Putnam, City Administrator Robert J. Mulready, City Clerk Gerald P. Berube, and Finance Director Richard Metivier.

ABSENT: Councilor Bilodeau.

ALSO PRESENT: School Committee members Margaret R. Rotundo, Yvette Therrien Silva, Renee M. Bernier, Lillian O'Brien, Paul E. McLaughlin, and Superintendent Robert Connors.

ABSENT: School Committee members David B. Gilchrist, Thomas P. Shannon and Paul St. Pierre.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of silence.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Ron Jean, President of the Lewiston Tax Payers Association, stated that the City Council should adopt a budget with at least a zero tax increase and should attempt to have a tax decrease. Mr. Jean compared salaries of local tax payers to salaries and benefits paid to various city employees.

A number of citizens spoke of the need of the various city positions and their value to the city as well as the value of education to economic development and growth.

Crystal Ward, President of the Teachers Associations, told the Council of the hours teachers are in their classroom. A recent survey, conducted by the Association, shows that the average teacher reports ½ hour early and leaves 1 hour late each day. The survey also showed that teachers spend between \$200 and \$300 of their own money on supplies for their classroom. She advised the Council that teachers will purchase supplies which are needed in the classroom and are not budgeted for.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Robert Connors, Superintendent of Schools, presented the proposed School Department 1998 Fiscal Year Budget.

The proposed budget of \$28,338,821 as recommended by the School Committee, represents an increase of \$830,240 or 3.02%, \$60,000 above the GNP-IPD limit of 2.8% or \$770,240.

The \$60,000 difference represents the salary for a Coordinator's position for implementation of the strategic plan.

The School Committee was also requesting that the City Council authorize a bond in the amount of \$700,000 for the purchase of computers and related equipment.

Members of the City Council urged the School Committee to work closely with the City of Auburn to get the best price possible on the computer purchase.

Councilor Kelly requested that the School Committee provide the City Council with a zero tax increase budget and the impact on the school programs.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Kelly, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To adjourn at 9:08 P.M. Passed - Vote 6-0

A true record, Attest:

Gerald P. Berube, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine